Christopher L. Austin Clerk

> United States Bankruptcy Court Eastern District of Wisconsin Office of the Clerk

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PACER Fee Exemption

The United States Bankruptcy Courts are authorized to provide exemptions from the usual fee associated with public access to electronic court records (PACER). This service is provided only to persons or organizations identified as eligible by the Judicial Conference, and the exemption is applicable only for limited purposes.

1. Who is eligible?

Courts may exempt the following persons and organizations from PACER fees: <u>indigent persons</u>, <u>bankruptcy case trustees</u>, <u>individual researchers associated with educational institutions</u>, <u>courts</u>, section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organizations and pro bono ADR neutrals.

Applicants must demonstrate that an exemption is necessary in order to avoid unreasonable burdens and to promote public access to information.

2. Current procedure for obtaining exemption from PACER fees

Submit a proposed order requesting the fee exemption to the Clerk of the Bankruptcy Court. Orders approving a PACER fee exemption for the Eastern District of Wisconsin are signed by the Chief Judge. You must submit a proposed order to each district in which you seek an exemption from PACER fees.

Proposed orders must specify certain limitations of the PACER Fee Exemption:

- the user agrees not to sell data obtained as a result of the exemption for profit;
- the exemption is granted to the individual or organization solely for access related to the case or purpose for which it was given; and that
- the exemption can be revoked at any time at the discretion of the court that granted it.

Additionally, the proposed order could limit the exempt status for a specific period of time, with the right of the requestor to seek an extension, if necessary.